



# L.A.R.A. Newsletter August 2016

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## IN THIS ISSUE

## From the Prez

By Len, KC5MPX

It's exciting to bring you news of the plans to get BBHN (Broad Band Ham Net) and Winlink at MCL (Medical Center of Lewisville). We hope to have this all online within the next few months along with the 220 repeater.

The growth of club speaks volumes for the members. The educational classes that Bob Burkett, KC5DCZ, and Jim Lavin, K5VZ, along with a few other members that have given their time to make the classes a great success. If you are one of these members, **Thank You!** You are what our club is built on; teaching and passing along the hobby.

I would really like to see us get the activity back on the 145.170 repeater. It would be great if we had someone that could do the Saturday Night Net. So if you have a topic that you would like to do. Please get in contact Jim Lavin K5VZ or me for approval. The net can be a trivia net, cooking, outdoors or even about ham radio.

It's also exciting to announce Jim Horton, WB8YWA, has taken the position of Surplus Coordinator. He will be in charge of all the club's equipment and will keep up with the club's loaner gear.

It's also great to have Ron Ford, KF5OMH who has taken the responsibility of Newsletter Coordinator. He will be e-mailing a monthly newsletter to members. If you have information that is of interest to the membership send it to Ron at [rfavcon@verizon.net](mailto:rfavcon@verizon.net).

I would like to thank all of the club members for your support. It is you guys and gals who make this club a growing success.

73  
 Len Shipp, KC5MPX

**L.A.R.A. On-Line**  
 Web site -- <http://w5lvc.org/>  
 By-Laws -- [By-Laws](#)  
 SOP -- [SOP](#)

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**L.A.R.A. Newsletter**  
 Is published each month for the purpose of informing L.A.R.A. members of current events and issues of interest to the membership. Articles and suggestions are always welcome. Articles that appear in this publication may be reproduced provided credit is given to *L.A.R.A. Newsletter* and to the original source.

## Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge

By Ron, KF5OMH



At the July business meeting we discussed the Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge and our desire to have some counselors registered with the Boy Scouts. Following are the links to various forms and information that will provide all the information required to become qualified as a counselor.

Merit Badge Counselor Information --  
<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34405.pdf>

Adult Application --  
<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-501.pdf>

Youth Protection Training (on-line). Pay particular attention to upper right corner for registration info --  
<http://www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection.aspx>

Radio Merit Badge Requirements --  
<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/MeritBadgeReqandRes/Radio.pdf>

Radio Merit Badge Pamphlet (recommend getting a copy of this so you know what the scout is working from --  
<http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/literature-media/merit-badge-pamphlets/radio.html#.V4qJdNZTFzE>

If you are already a registered merit badge counselor for the Radio Merit Badge please let Ron Ford, KF5OMH at [rfavcon@verizon.net](mailto:rfavcon@verizon.net). Direct any questions to Ron at the above email address.

Hope some of you can follow through with this. It's a little bit of work initially but well worth the satisfaction when you help a boy work through it and get his badge.

## Training

### New Technician Class

Beginning Monday, September 19 at 1900 our second Technician class will be held at the Central Fire station Training Room.

Bob, K5DCZ, and Tim, WZ5TM, will be team teaching this class. Plans are for each session to last approximately two (2) hours and will run for eight sessions. The test session will be held November 12 at 1100.

Now is the time to start talking this up among friends, family and acquaintances who are currently not licensed. The registration form is located [here](#).

### Recent Extra Class

Bob, K5DCZ reports that there were 12 students initially in the class. Unfortunately not everyone stuck it out until the end. As of press time there were three new Extras with several yet to test.

### Skywarn Training

Storm spotter classes are conducted by the National Weather Service and are required biennially.

An [online course](#) is also available if you missed the local class.

FEMA - [IS-100.b Introduction to ICS](#)

FEMA - [IS-700.a National Incident Management System \(NIMS\), An Introduction](#)

West Gulf Division - [ARES Standardized Training Plan](#) Task Book

## Upcoming Events

### August

20 – Business Meeting, Central Fire Station Huntsville, AL Hamfest  
 21 – Rookie Roundup  
 24 – Help Net on 145.170  
 30 – Breakfast at Tierney's

### September

3 – Breakfast at Tierney's  
 7 -- Help Net on 145.170  
 10 – Breakfast at Tierney's  
 14 -- Help Net on 145.170  
 17 -- Business Meeting, Central Fire Station  
 21 -- Help Net on 145.170  
 19 – Technician Class, Central Fire Station, 1900  
 24 – Breakfast at Tierney's  
 26 -- Technician Class, Central Fire Station, 1900  
 28 -- Help Net on 145.170

### October

1 – Breakfast at Tierney's  
 3 – Technician Class, Central Fire Station, 1900  
 5 -- Help Net on 145.170  
 8 – Breakfast at Tierney's  
 10 – Technician Class, Central Fire Station, 1900  
 12 -- Help Net on 145.170  
 15 – Breakfast at Tierney's  
 17 – Technician Class, Central Fire Station, 1900  
 19 -- Help Net on 145.170  
 22 – Breakfast at Tierney's  
 24 – Technician Class, Central Fire Station, 1900  
 26 -- Help Net on 145.170  
 29 – Breakfast at Tierney's  
 31 -- Technician Class, Central Fire Station, 1900

For up to date info on contests, go to:  
[www.arrl.org/contest](http://www.arrl.org/contest)

# July Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Alysa Shipp, KG5DAS

President Len Shipp KC5MPX, called the meeting to order at 8:09

## Officers in Attendance:

President: Len Shipp KC5MPX

Vice President: Jim Lavin K5VZ

Secretary: Allyssa Shipp KG5DAS

Treasurer: Sharon Howard KE5JUI

## Attendance:

### Members:

Ron Ford KF5OMH

Jim Horton WB8YWA

Joe Nagel KG5MFG

John Lundy KF5FOX

Steve Kline W5JK

Brian Ulmer KC5MPY

Tim Monk WZ5TM

Dan Howard KE5CIR

Lee Norup K5WXR

### Guests:

Marty Wells KM5OI

New Members Joined:

Meeting Minutes from Last Meeting: Past meeting minutes were approved as read by Secretary Allyssa Shipp KG5DAS:

Motioned by: Ron Ford KF5OMH

Seconded by: Joe Nagel KG5MFG

Approved by the Members

Treasurer's Report was given by Sharon Howard KE5JUI: \$1055.33. \$988.21

Motioned by: Jim Lavin K5VZ

Seconded by: Jim Horton WB8YWA

Approved by the Members

Technical Report as given by Len Shipp KC5MPX: 145.17 working good. W5LVC 220 Repeater at MCL.

Motioned by: Dan Howard KE5CIR

Seconded by: Allyssa Shipp KG5DAS

Approved by the Members

## New Business:

Extra Test will be on August 6th. VE's needed.

Junk Box Pass Off - Joe Nagel KG5MFG. Lee Norup K5WXR

Event T-Shirts

Dead Guy Donation - Thank You Card

Jamboree on the Air

Field Day Next Year – Fire station

Committee: Dan Howard, Jim Horton, Steve Kline, Erick Guzowsky (?)

## Old Business:

July/August Outdoor Activity

August Tech Class - Starts Sept 19th. Ends on Nov 7th. Test on Nov 12th. Skip Halloween

Club Newsletter

Fire Dept. Appreciation Lunch

Tower Climbers

ARRL Club Membership

## Upcoming Events:

Rookie Round-Up - August 21st 1:00PM-7:00PM

JOTA - October 15th

Motion: Dan Howard KE5CIR

Second: Jim Horton WB8YWA

Presentation on JOTA by Ron Ford KF5OMH and Field Day by Allyssa Shipp KG5DAS

Motion to Close Meeting Made by: Allyssa Shipp KG5DAS

Seconded by: Bryan Ulmer KC5MPY

All Members Approved

Meeting Closed at: 9:29

## Tower Climbers Needed

DCARA is looking for more people interested in climbing towers. If you are interested contact Len, KC5MPX. You will have the opportunity to learn and work with experienced climbers. Paul Estes, K5VOP, posted a YouTube video of the recent EOC tower climb. View it here -- [EOC Tower Climb](#)

## Lewisville Citizen Alert Emergency Notification System

Lewisville Citizen Alert is an emergency notification system used to make rapid emergency notifications to residents and businesses in the city of Lewisville. The system is used by Lewisville emergency officials to deliver severe weather notifications and incident-specific information or potentially life-saving instruction to those in the affected area(s). This system enables the City to deliver important messages to our residents and businesses via phone call, text message, or email.

To learn more about the Lewisville Citizen Alert emergency notification system, [click here](#).

To sign-up to receive emergency notifications from the Lewisville Citizen Alert system via mobile phone, text or email, [click here](#).

## L.A.R.A. Officers

Position	Name	Email
President	Len Shipp	kc5mpx@gmail.com
Vice President	Jim Lavin	jlavin@jimlavin.net
Secretary	Allysa Shipp	allyssashipp@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sharon Howard	ke5jui@arrl.net
Technical Officer	Erick Guzowsky	zaphod1@swbell.net



## What is a JOTA?

By Ron, KF5OMH

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually the third full weekend in October (Oct. 15). JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in our own community.



Scouts of any age can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers, including girls. The exchanges include such information as name, location, Scout rank, age, and hobbies.

During the 2015 JOTA nearly 1 million Scouts and almost 20,000 amateur radio operators participated from more than 17,776 stations in 151 countries.

JOTA is not a contest. The idea is to contact other Scout stations and allow as many Scouts as possible to talk to other Scouts and learn about who they are and what they are doing.

L.A.R.A. will be participating in JOTA this year by setting up conducting a “in the park” activity. We will be working from the shelter at L.L. Woods Park.

JOTA has established band segments for SSB, CW, PSK-31, 2-Meter FM Simplex, 70 CM FM Simplex, D-Star, DMR, IRLP, EchoLink, and APRS; so... the sky is the limit. As you can see we'll need as many stations operating as possible. In addition, we would like to offer a Radio Merit Badge class as part of the JOTA activity (see the article “Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge” elsewhere in this newsletter.

The call for the day is “CQ Jamboree” or “CQ JOTA”. After contact is made on the Calling Channel or frequency, move to another channel or frequency for QSO.

If you are available to participate please complete the questionnaire located at <https://goo.gl/forms/nguVkwSgLWxhnAF83>.

Direct any questions or comments to Ron, KF5OMH at [rfavcon@verizon.net](mailto:rfavcon@verizon.net).

## Field Day 2017 - What Is Ahead

Field Day 2016 was a huge success and everyone feels that next year's will be even bigger and better. How are we going to feed a huge amount of people? Well, here's how –



2000 brats an hour; that should do it!

Thanks to Dan, KE5CIR, for the arrangements.

## Good Ground, Bad Ground or will the lightning find me?

By Erick, KOOM, Technical Officer

A good ground is one that has a low resistance to the ground or what we call Earth. Ground is great for AC/DC signal types but is not the greatest at radio frequencies. A typical ground for us hams needs to be about 8' in the ground for best performance, so the lightning doesn't find you. This is NOT A GUARANTEE of protection of lightning only a possible protection. There are no guarantees in life and this is one of them...if you suffer a direct strike the resulting EMP, and residual ground radiation will no doubt find your precious electronics and let the magic smoke out of them. That said, you still need to ground your stuff so you can protect yourself.

Protection comes from the fact that if you're grounded, you have a better chance to make yourself NOT an idle target for lightning by giving the static potential a place to go....thus making you not high on the lightning's target list....but it still will NOT guarantee that you won't get hit.

I'm going to touch on the following points briefly to get your brain juices flowing and give you some ideas about your setup.

1. You will need to start by measuring the ground rods resistance, as you drive the rods into the ground to get a profile of how your soil is in your area. This will help you know whether you need to dope the soil or not...more on this later.
2. The consideration of Conductor Surface Area comes into play when you're choosing a grounding method; this comes into why copper is better than other metals and how you bond or attach them to each other.
3. The ideal ground is a single point ground. Multiple paths to ground is a bad idea as if something goes wrong with one ground then who knows what the path might be. It might think your radio is a good path to ground; I can tell you it's not...your radio makes a lousy fuse!
4. To make your ground of copper even better you may have to Dope the soil (no illegal stuff here) this is done by putting an ion into the soil that the ground likes. The best method is mix a box of salt and some water in a bucket and pour it on your ground rod.
5. Ground Radials have the benefit of taking the radiation from the ground and spreading it out further, thus preventing further propagation and possible skin effect.
6. Try every way possible not to build a wooden tower....that is just bad and is a poor conductor...use metal its best. Also, using dissimilar metals in your tower

design and ground is another bad practice that should be avoided like the plague.

7. Your antenna location should be well thought out and considered for both overhead issues and underground issues. Along with the placement of the antenna you should consider the guy wires and other support mechanisms to make sure they are protected...static electricity can build on these to lethal values...(with not a cloud in the sky).
8. We all have coax and control lines going out to our tower and those also need to be protected and tied into your central ground system. Don't forget about where the phone line or internet comes into your house....lightning doesn't play favorites its goes for the low hanging fruit.
9. When you're laying out your ground cables and Buss bars for your ground remember this one key thing...NO SHARP BENDS....PERIOD. Lightning loves curves and will follow without fail...first sharp bend it hits it flies out and strikes whatever is around that bend....and that might be you.
10. You also might want to consider inline protectors for your system as they too can offer protection against lightning finding you or your equipment. They use a gas or fuse and shunt the current to ground thus giving their life to protect your equipment...some can take many hits before failing completely...but you should check them periodically for failure.
11. If lightning were to strike your tower, a component of lightning is the magnetic field that tags along with it (also known as an EMP blast) makes junk out of your equipment real fast. You can shield from this but, it's a bit out of the scope of my grounding segment; just think Faraday cage.

I would welcome questions and thoughts from our Elmer's on what they do with their setups and from you the members on what you think.

## Event T-Shirts

Let everyone know you're a member of the Lewisville Amateur Radio Association. Great for when you're working events and representing L.A.R.A.



These t-shirts are printed in 4-colors on a high visibility yellow cotton t-shirt and features the L.A.R.A. logo on the front and back with the words Radio Operator across the back shoulders.

T-shirts are ordered in minimum batches of 1 dozen and you will be notified when they are ready for pick up at the next monthly meeting.

Shirts are \$25.00 each and can be ordered here -- <http://w5lvc.org/eventtshirt.html>.

## What is ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

ARES Membership Requirements

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training is required to participate fully in ARES. Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

How to Get Involved in ARES

ARES in Denton County is coordinated through Denton County Emergency Services. More information can be found on their web site at <http://www.denton-ares.org/>. Applications are available during LARA business meetings on the “information” table.

# Area Repeaters

Courtesy : DCARA *EXCITER* Newsletter

Freq	Shift	PL	Call	Name
145.1700	-.600	110.9	W5FKN	DCARA-Denton County EOC
145.2100	-.600	110.9	N5MJQ	Metrocrest ARA-Carrollton
145.4000	-.600	110.9	NETARC	Grapevine
145.4900	-.600	85.4	WD5U	Rosston Tower
146.9200	-0.6	110.9	W5NGU	DCARA - Denton
147.300	+.600	114.8	N5ERS	Flower Mound
147.3800	+.600	110.9	K5LRK	LAARK - The Colony
224.920	-1.6	110.9	AF5RS	AF5RS
441.3250	+5.0	88.5	W5NGU	Portable DCARA repeater
442.7500	+5.0	110.9	KA5R	Trophy Club
444.5125	+5.0	123	KE5UT	Celina
442.1750	+5.0	110.9	NETARC	Southlake
442.6500	+5.0	110.9	N5MJQ	Metrocrest ARA-Carrollton
443.3000	+5.0	110.9	K5LRK	LAARK-C4FM on/y
443.5250	+5.0	118.8	WA5LIE	DCARA - Denton
443.7375	+5.0	141.3	N6LXX	Rosston Tower
443.8750	+5.0	110.9	NETARC	DFW Airport
444.0500	+5.0	110.9	W5NGU	DCARA-Denton County EOC
444.2250	+5.0	110.9	K5CFD	Coppell
444.7000	+5.0	110.9	NETARC	Southlake
444.8500	+5.0	110.9	N5ERS	Flower Mound
927.025	-25.0	D532	N5ERS	Flower Mound
927.4125	-25.0	432	N5LS	Denton
927.6125	-25.0	110.9	W5NGU	DCARA-Denton County EOC
927.1375	-25.0	131.8	W5FKN	Decatur
1253.6000	none	none	W5NGU-G	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "G"
1293.4000	-20.0	none	W5NGU-A	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "A"
442.9250	+5.0	none	W5NGU-B	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "B"
147.4500	-1.0	none	W5NGU-C	DCARA - EOC - D*Star "C"
1259.2000	none	none	KE5YAP-G	DCARA-Rosston- D*Star "G"
1293.2000	-20.0	none	KE5YAP-A	DCARA-Rosston- D*Star "A"
440.7125	+5.0	none	KE5YAP-B	DCARA-Rosston- D*Star "B"
147.4900	-1.0	none	KE5YAP-C	DCARA-Rosston- D*Star "C"
<b>DIGITAL</b>	====	====	=====	=====
144.9100	none	none	W5NGU-4	DCARA Digipeater-Denton
147.970	none	none	K5YX-10	WinLink Gateway
144.990	none	none	KC5GOI	DCARA Digipeater-Rosston
144.990	none	none	KD5EOC-10	DCARA WL Gateway